

Fall 2014

## Saint Mary's Magazine - Fall 2014

Saint Mary's College of California

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# SAINT MARY'S

FALL 2014

## **GRATITUDE 22**

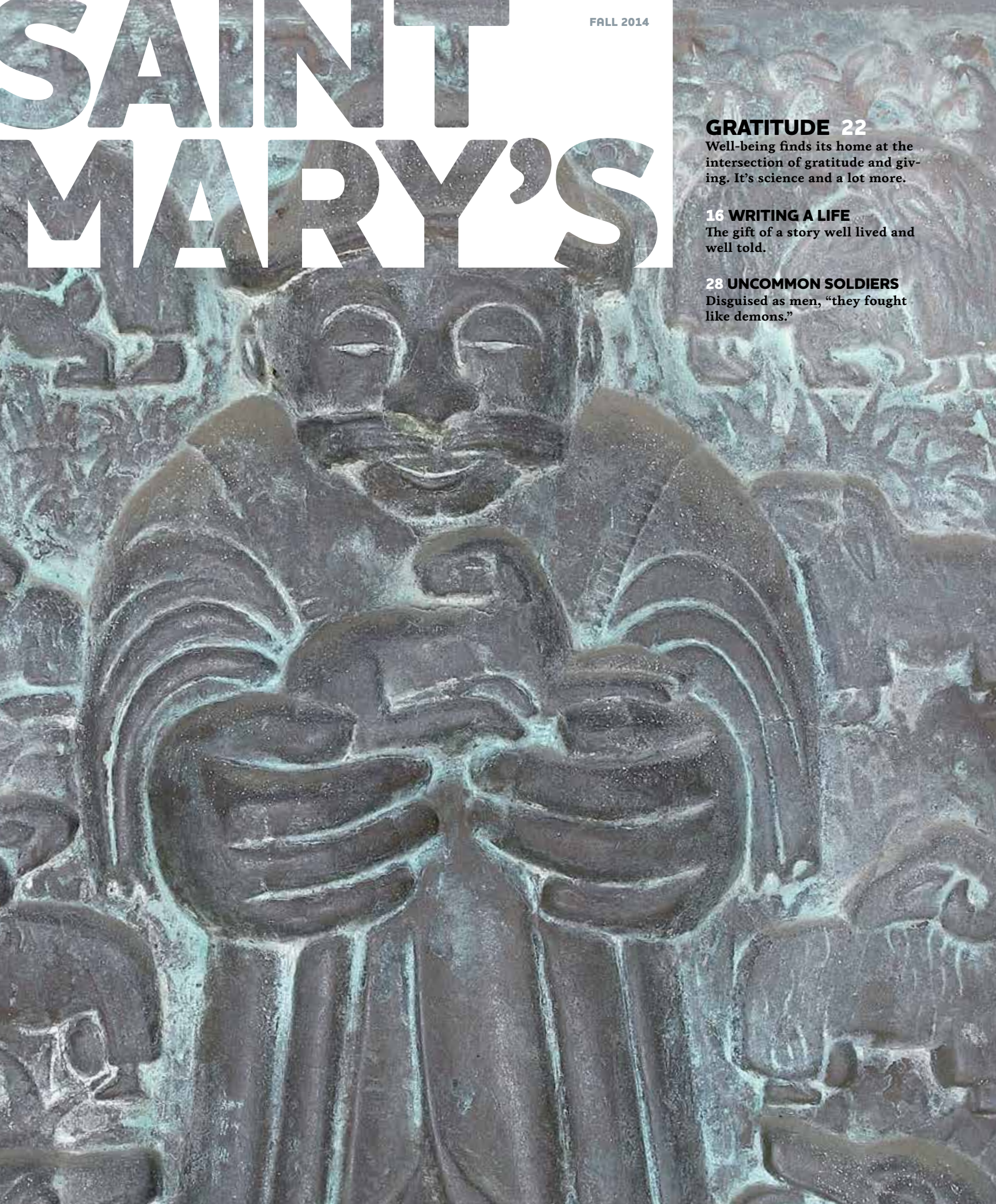
Well-being finds its home at the intersection of gratitude and giving. It's science and a lot more.

## **16 WRITING A LIFE**

The gift of a story well lived and well told.

## **28 UNCOMMON SOLDIERS**

Disguised as men, "they fought like demons."











# S

## SCENE



**SHARAD SINGH**  
'04

*Vice president for business  
development at Trivium  
Corporate Solutions*

*Singh partners with tech  
startups to help them  
grow strategically.*

## Reunion 2014

"It's amazing how many memories came back after just a few moments at SMC. Not sure how it's possible, but the school looks more beautiful than when we first stepped foot on campus. You begin to miss the time spent there, but then you see an old friend or 10 and begin to live like the old days. Can't wait for the 15-year reunion!"

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🔗 And read Saint Mary's magazine online at [stmarys-ca.edu/saint-marys-magazine](http://stmarys-ca.edu/saint-marys-magazine).



Saint Mary's magazine is about voices. Add yours to the mix. Write to us at [magazine@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:magazine@stmarys-ca.edu).



## GAELS IN HOLLYWOOD

In the last article about alumni in Hollywood, you did not mention Paul Lombardi, class of '69, whose family has been doing special effects for a very long time in Hollywood. If I am not mistaken, Paul did the special effects for *We Were Soldiers* starring Mel Gibson.

**JOHN CRAIN '70**

I know a few other Gaels working in Hollywood including myself. I currently work on the television show *New Girl* (on Fox) as an editor now, originally an assistant editor.

**GISELLE MURILLO '05**

## THE MEN OF '50

I enjoyed the "Men of '50" article in the SMC magazine. It was well written and well put together. I received many good comments also from classmates attending the Golden Gaels reunion lunch.

**BOB KOZLOWSKI '50**



✉ **THE MEN OF '41** We got an email from Lionel Holmes '41, who said, "Great issue! But I never see anything about the class of 1941—my class. Am I the only one still alive (age 95)?"

So we checked and found that there are three living members of the class of 1941: (clockwise from top left) Bill Brusher, Lionel Holmes and Brother Dominick Ruegg.



## GAELS IN HOLLYWOOD

<http://low.ly/AD8KU>

*In a town where longevity can be as fleeting as a rising starlet's Botox injections, Gary Murphy '74 keeps showing up. He's been kicking around Hollywood for 35 years, one joke at a time.*

Wow.

August 24 at 8:18pm **ELISE WONG**

So awesome, Hor-Hey! Love that you made this article :)

August 24 at 8:49pm **TRACY MCQUOWN**

It all traces back to my thesis mentor Walt DeFaria :) love it!!

August 24 at 8:53pm **GIULIANA HARRIS**



## THE BIG SHIFT



#regram "@renewedme Good #quote found in my @stmarysca magazine! True for us all."

Correction: Photography credit for "The Flavor of Healing" on page 12 of the summer magazine should be Roger@thebeautyofgarlic.com.

## FEATURES



Yuska Lutfi, M.F.A. '14, helped people write their life stories.

## 16 Writing a Life

*M.F.A. students redefine service by teaching writing to seniors in Lafayette.*

## 22 Super G

*How philanthropy and gratitude intersect, and why that's good for us.*

## 28 Uncommon Soldiers

*It turns out many women snuck onto Civil War battlefields, many dying in disguise.*

**ON THE COVER** The Good Shepherd near Dryden Hall, the class of 1962's senior gift to honor Brother Kyran Aviani FSC.

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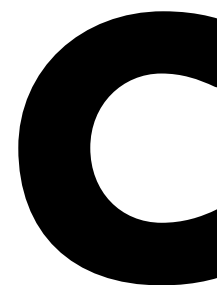
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## STAFF

### PUBLISHER

Herman Bucheli

### EXECUTIVE EDITOR

J. Elizabeth Smith

### EDITOR

Jo Shroyer

### ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Sarah Weld

### CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Karen Kemp

### DESIGN

Diablo Custom Publishing

### POETRY EDITOR

Brenda Hillman

### CONTRIBUTORS

Zachary Amendt M.F.A. '14  
Joel Bahr M.F.A. '13  
Paul Ebenkamp M.F.A. '09  
Ben Enos  
Casey McAlduff M.F.A. '12  
Caitlin McClain '15  
Ginny Prior  
Autumn Stephens

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Saint Mary's magazine is published three times a year. Please send comments to [magazine@stmmarys-ca.edu](mailto:magazine@stmmarys-ca.edu) or call (925) 631-4278. Submit name and address changes to [info4smc@stmmarys-ca.edu](mailto:info4smc@stmmarys-ca.edu).



# For the Love of Whales

Mark Ferrari '72 leaped into the Pacific near the Channel Islands and discovered his life's work. He was with David Garcelon, president of the Institute for Wildlife Studies, taking photos as Garcelon introduced bald eagles back onto the chain of islands off California's coast. "I had borrowed an underwater camera and jumped in to see what kind of fish the eagles would be catching," Ferrari said. "That's when I realized where God had put color. It was just spectacular."

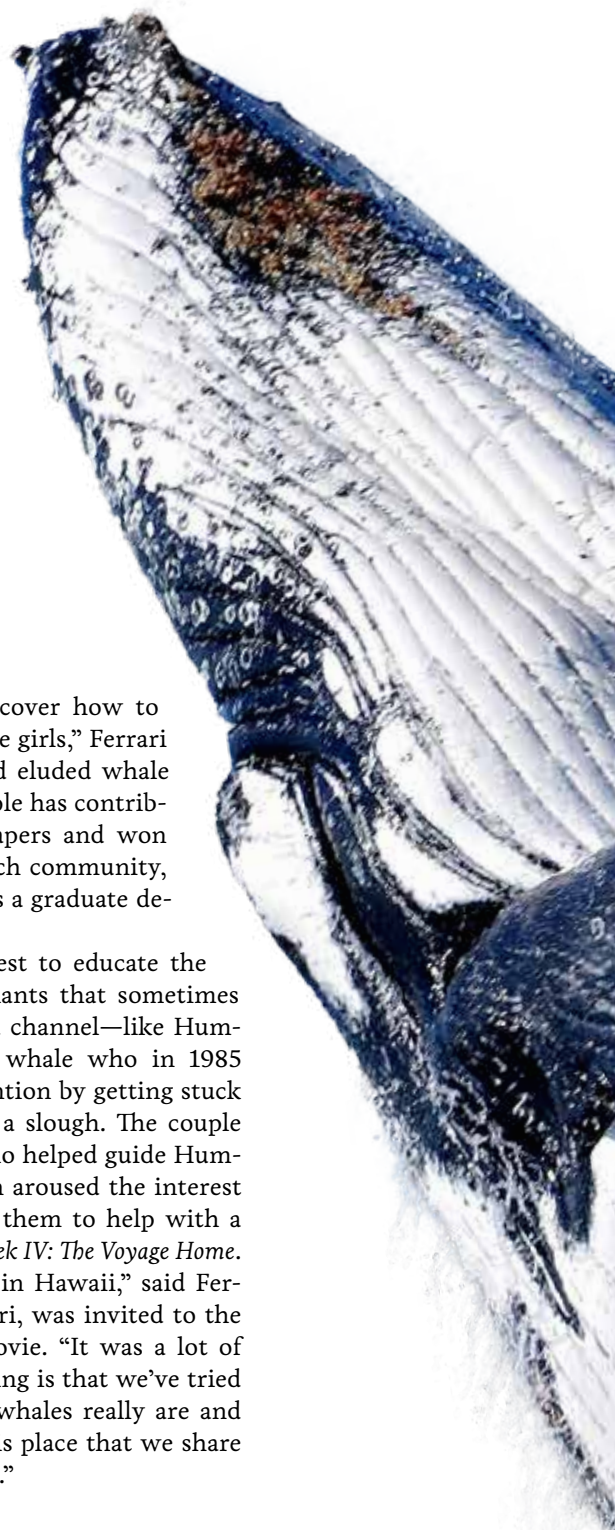
The experience led Ferrari to Hawaii and ocean wildlife photography. There, he met a whale researcher who said, "You oughta meet this lady who's been doing whale research here for a couple of years now." Long story short, they fell madly in love, Ferrari said. "And the rest is history"—a history of groundbreaking research and a 40-year adventure studying the humpback whale.

Together, Ferrari and Debbie Glockner-Ferrari have dedicated their lives to the study and conservation of marine mammals and the preservation of the marine environment. They founded the nonprofit Center for Whale Studies in Hawaii, of which Ferrari is the president. Since 1975, they have used keen observation and noninvasive techniques to better understand the enormous, glorious humpback.

"Debbie was the first to discover how to tell the boy humpbacks from the girls," Ferrari said about a discovery that had eluded whale researchers until then. The couple has contributed to numerous scientific papers and won the respect of the whale research community, despite the fact that neither has a graduate degree in a related field.

And they have done their best to educate the public about the mysterious giants that sometimes erroneously swim up an inland channel—like Humphrey, the famous humpback whale who in 1985 attracted enormous public attention by getting stuck upriver from San Francisco in a slough. The couple were among the researchers who helped guide Humphrey back to the ocean, which aroused the interest of Leonard Nimoy, who asked them to help with a movie he was directing—*Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*.

"We shot live whale footage in Hawaii," said Ferrari, who, with Glockner-Ferrari, was invited to the Hollywood premiere of the movie. "It was a lot of fun, but the most important thing is that we've tried to educate people about what whales really are and that we need to take care of this place that we share with these magnificent animals."



# N

**NATURAL**



**MARK FERRARI**  
'72

*President of the Center  
for Whale Studies*





# A

## ARCADE

### EVENTS

#### OCTOBER

**12–Dec. 14** Pueblo to Pueblo: The Legacy of Southwest Indian Pottery  
Saint Mary's College Museum of Art

**24** **A** Men's Basketball Tip-Off Dinner  
6–10 p.m., Blackhawk Museum, Danville

**27** **A** Reno Alumni Chapter Gaels, Dons and Broncos Reception  
6–8 p.m., Louis' Basque Center, Reno

#### NOVEMBER

**5** **A** Dine With Alums  
5:30–9 p.m., Soda Center

**15** **A** Pat Vincent Rugby Dinner  
6–11 p.m., Soda Center

#### DECEMBER

**5** **A** 1863 Society Christmas Party  
6–8 p.m., St. Regis, San Francisco

**9** **A** San Diego Christmas Party  
6–8 p.m., TBD

**10** **A** Sacramento Alumni Chapter Christmas Party  
6–8 p.m., Chicago Fire, Midtown Sacramento

**11** **A** East Bay Christmas Party  
6–8 p.m., 1515 Restaurant & Lounge, Walnut Creek

#### JANUARY 2015

**21** **A** Annual Denver Alumni Chapter Reception  
6–8 p.m., The Avenue Grill, Denver

#### FEBRUARY

**21** Annual Car Drawing  
4:30–7 p.m., Soda Center

**28** M.F.A. Benefit Raffle  
5 p.m., Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco

#### MARCH

**4** **A** An Interview with Women in Federal Public Service  
5:30 p.m., Soda Center

**5–10** **A** WCC Tournament Alumni Parties  
4–6 p.m., The Orleans Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas

**17** **A** Annual Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon  
11:30–2 p.m., Dante Club, Sacramento

**A** For more information on the alumni events listed above: [stmarys-ca.edu/alumnievents](http://stmarys-ca.edu/alumnievents).

## ADIOS RED PEN

If Professors Rebecca Carroll and Barry Eckhouse have their way, a teacher's red pen may grow obsolete. In a recent article in *Business Communication Quarterly*, Carroll and Eckhouse argue that a better way to give feedback to students could be voice grading—which replaces standard hand-written comments on paper with audio files and video embedded in a digital document.

The idea of voice grading isn't a new one. In the early 1980s, an article titled "Cassette Tapes: An Answer to the Grading Dilemma" outlined how teachers could use current technology to overcome the impersonal nature of written comments. Educators worried that students were not reading teachers' written feedback, but instead flipping to the back page to see the grade and ignoring the instructor's notes.

Eckhouse and Carroll's survey showed

that a voice can overcome problems of tone or miscommunication more easily than static text can. Inflections come through, and there is more connection between the instructor's comments and the final grade. Students reported in the survey that receiving a voice-graded paper felt more conversational and less adversarial than wading through red marks.

Voice grading has some drawbacks, like a steep learning curve for teachers, and there is no research yet showing that it links directly to better student performance. But it could be a logical next step for increasing technological interactions in the classroom.

And how do you get students to listen to or watch professors' feedback? Embed grades deep in the feedback so students have to listen to the comments before they can find out their score. —Joel Bahr

## Letters on Fire

*Recognition for a gifted poet.*



Brenda Hillman's *Seasonal Works With Letters on Fire* (Wesleyan University Press, 2013) has drawn remarkable interest and acclaim from readers, reviewers and awards committees in the past year. (We considered and rejected using a play on the notion of fire, as a number of reviewers have done, to describe how Hillman's poetry and the notice it's received have been white hot.) This fourth and final collection in Hillman's series about the four classical elements—earth, air, water and fire—was long listed for the 2013 National Book Award for Poetry, and received the Northern California Book Award for Poetry and, most recently, the prestigious 2014 Griffin Poetry Prize.

Hillman has written nine other collections of poetry, including *Practical Water* (2009), for which she received the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award for Poetry. She holds the Olivia Filippi Chair of Poetry at Saint Mary's and is the director of the M.F.A. Program.

# Ethical Pie



**BILL FREEMAN**  
'92  
CEO of Patxi's Pizza

*Freeman was honored last year as one of 2013's Most-Admired CEOs in the Bay Area by the San Francisco Business Times.*

When it comes to food trends, there's dough to be made in the pizza business. Just ask Bill Freeman '92, who's about to open his 14th Patxi's Pizza, in Santa Barbara—with a goal of 75 restaurants in five years.

Patxi's ("Pah-Cheese") is named after Freeman's partner and pizza maker, Francisco "Patxi" Azpiroz. In 2004, Freeman threw down a challenge to his friend, who was managing Zachary's Chicago Pizza, a popular pizzeria in Berkeley and Oakland.

"I asked Patxi if he could make a pizza as good or better. He came up with his own dough recipe and his own sauce recipe, and baked pizzas for me in his apartment in Rockridge until we perfected them," said Freeman, who kicked in the money for their first location in Palo Alto.

Just for fun, Stanford mathematicians recently calculated the number of Patxi's pizza combinations—a whopping 9 million, factoring for the thin crust, two Chicago-style crusts (stuffed and pan), whole wheat, gluten free, vegan, 36 ingredients, etc. But this isn't all that sets this place apart.

Taking pizza from fast food to artisanal has won

Patxi's a mention in *Forbes* magazine's list of the Hottest Food Trends for 2014. Using only fresh, healthy ingredients drives up the cost, but Freeman sees this as an ethical choice reinforced by his time at Saint Mary's and one course in particular—Don DePaoli's business ethics class.

"He would have guest speakers from major companies, some of them Fortune 500 companies, talk about ethical issues that they faced in business," Freeman said. "Some of them decided their ethics were more important than their job, and they walked away from being the CEO."

Ethics also means building community. Patxi's holds weekly neighborhood fundraisers and Freeman is a volunteer deputy sheriff with the San Francisco Mounted Unit.

Parade security on horseback may not be as risky as building a pizza empire, but it clearly shows moxie.

"When you're riding down Columbus Street, and the Blue Angels are going over your head and there are people everywhere, it can be a little scary," said Freeman. —Ginny Prior



## FUNDING DREAMS

Talented, financially needy Saint Mary's students will benefit from two major foundation grants awarded to Saint Mary's this year. A National Science Foundation grant of \$613,477 over five years, the largest the College has ever received from NSF, will support 24 undergraduates majoring in science and mathematics. And the Fletcher Jones Foundation has awarded \$500,000 to the College for a new scholarship fund that will help qualified undergraduates meet the costs of a quality education.



**FISHERMEN AT WORK** Art by Jerrika Shi, who won the 2014 international prize in the River of Words Poetry & Art Contest. Shi, 17, was one of 13 young poets and artists, ranging in age from 7 to 17, who won awards in the largest youth poetry and art competition in the world. River of Words (ROW) is part of Saint Mary's Center for Environmental Literacy in the Kalmanovitz School of Education. ROW's mission is to promote literacy, the arts and environmental awareness.

# Saint Mary's Library by the Numbers

SMC students swarmed the library last year in person and online, proving that our professional librarians—real people with real answers—are more crucial than ever when it comes to navigating and synthesizing information.



41,778

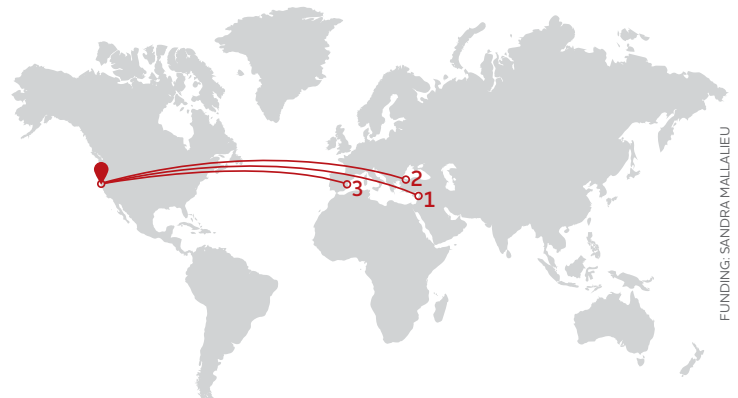
items checked out

5,047

questions fielded by  
reference librarians

World travelers: the three farthest libraries SMC books traveled to last year (they requested a title, and we lent it out):

1. American University of Beirut: 7,285 miles
2. Sabanci University, Istanbul: 6,701 miles
3. Universitat de València, Spain: 5,951 miles





See a video about the choir champs:  
[stmarys-ca.edu/choirgold](http://stmarys-ca.edu/choirgold).

A

# International Gold

The air was filled with song and a spirit of intercultural warmth and friendship at the World Choir Games in Riga, Latvia, in July. The competition was stiff among the 460 choirs and more than 27,000 singers from 73 nations, but two Saint Mary's ensembles brought home the gold.

The Chamber Singers competed against 55 other choirs with a stunning 20-minute performance that put them in the top eight ensembles and garnered them a gold medal. The Glee Club, pitted against 29 other choirs in the popular music category, placed in the top six ensembles and won gold. "Their four-song set was, to my ear, flawless—the only time in my 30-year teaching career I couldn't find a single detail to improve," said Martin Rokeach, Music Program director. "Musical standards at the Choir Games were very high. Weak ensembles were not invited to participate."

Despite the highly competitive nature of the gathering, choirs that couldn't speak each other's languages let music do the talking, singing together on buses and in parks, Rokeach said. "Saint Mary's students spontaneously jammed with choir members from Venezuela, Uganda and China."

*The universal language of music united singers from 73 countries this summer when Saint Mary's Chamber Singers and Glee Club, led by Julie Ford, won two gold medals at the World Choir Games, aka the Choir Olympics, in Latvia.*



## PLAYING FAIR

At Saint Mary's monthly Fair Trade Fridays, it's possible to buy the work of international artisans and speak to students who met them on study abroad and service-learning trips. By shopping at this event, the SMC community supports greater equity in international trade and sustainable development, and protects artisans' rights.

Such efforts have contributed to Saint Mary's achieving Fair Trade status, the only Northern California institution of higher education recognized in this way.

Fair trade also applies to the ethically sourced coffee we drink on campus—provided by Sodexo, SMC's food service supplier and partner in campus sustainability efforts—in Oliver Hall and Café Louis, and at catered academic and athletic events.

Fair trade, based on dialogue, transparency and respect, not only reflects the College's Catholic and social justice mission, said Saint Mary's President, James Donahue, "it also illustrates our ongoing commitment to promoting economic fairness globally and educating our students about the importance of fair trade policies."



**FAIR TRADE  
CERTIFIED™**

## LEARNING TO LEAD

Larisa Genin, associate dean for Undergraduate Programs and Accreditation in the School of Economics and Business Administration, was named one of 31 emerging college and university leaders for the 2014–15 class of the ACE (American Council on Education) Fellows Program. Established in 1965, ACE is the longest-running leadership development program in the United States. It identifies and prepares the next generation of senior leadership for the nation's colleges and universities.

Genin will spend her fellowship at Dominican University of California in San Rafael, Calif. where she looks forward "to learning from top leaders of renowned institutions and bringing back to Saint Mary's a set of best practices and benchmarks that will help us build upon our strong reputation and profile, especially in the area of student experience and success."

The ACE Fellows Program combines retreats, visits to campuses and placement at another higher education institution to condense years of on-the-job experience and skills development into a single year. It gives fellows access to academic leaders and mentoring opportunities.

Chris Sindt, dean of the Kalmanovitz School of Education and an ACE Fellow in 2011–12 at UC Davis, said he uses his new leadership skills at Saint Mary's every day. "The ACE Fellowship provides a deep context for leadership in higher education, and it also provides hands-on leadership training," said Sindt, also vice provost for Graduate and Professional Studies. "The most valuable part of my experience was the direct mentorship and time spent shadowing academic leaders at UC Davis. I watched them engage with a wide range of audiences over a wide range of topics, some very stressful."

A former ACE Fellow, Provost Bethami Dobkin said: "The Fellows program familiarizes participants with every aspect of higher education leadership, covering issues of concern such as college affordability, diversity and retention at institutions from community colleges to research universities."





# GESTURES OF GRATITUDE

## A Concise History

BY GREG CLARK



9000 BC



1263



1621



1945



1972



2014



## The Rec Center Rises

Construction on the \$23.5 million Joseph L. Alioto Recreation Center—with a pool and climbing walls—is humming along, with the center on schedule to open by spring 2015. The exterior steel framework and red tile roof are finished, the pool has been framed, and the inside rooms are taking shape. Designed for the entire Saint Mary's campus community, the center also includes three indoor courts for basketball, soccer and volleyball; a fitness center; and rooms for yoga, dance and spinning classes. To help complete the project—\$20 million has been raised so far—contact Mark Chiarucci in Development at (925) 631-4168 or mchiaruc@stmarys-ca.edu.



### 75 DEDICATED YEARS

In September, the Saint Mary's College Guild celebrated its 75th anniversary with Mass, a social gathering and dinner on campus. The guild was formed in 1939 to further the principles of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, assuring education for all. The membership includes former students, Saint Mary's faculty and staff, parents, community members, and friends of the College. This dedicated group of volunteers—who have at their heart the welfare and financial support of Saint Mary's students—has raised more than \$1 million for scholarships over its history.



*This brave knight, decked out in SMC colors, was salvaged from the old floor of Madigan Gym and now watches over the staff and patrons of the campus post office.*

### JOUSTING FOR JOBS

While facing a still-recovering economy, members of the Saint Mary's class of 2014 rose to the occasion, impressing recruiters with their respectful communication skills—a direct result of the College's approach to liberal arts education. Make no mistake—the job market is still challenging for the 764 seniors who just graduated, said Career Center Director Patty Bishop. “It is still an uphill battle with barriers like too many applicants and not enough jobs.” The jobless rate for college graduates ages 20–24 was 8 percent in 2013, compared to about 5 percent in 2007, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

But the baby boomer bubble is thinning, making room for the next generation. “Employers especially need to fill the gap in the workforce because baby boomers are retiring. There is a huge need for the type of talent that a liberal arts graduate can offer future employers. Saint Mary's is in a strong position to fill this void in the marketplace,” Bishop said.

And numbers are on the upswing. Employers expect to hire 8.6 percent more new college graduates this year for their U.S. operations than last year, according to Job Outlook 2014 Spring Update, a survey from the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Organizations ranging from the Peace Corps to PricewaterhouseCoopers find SMC students respectful with solid values, Bishop said. And thanks to their liberal arts background, they have excellent communication skills and are trained to explore meaning (undoubtedly honed in four semesters of Seminar).

Several Saint Mary's alums told Bishop that Seminar taught them how to sell an idea. A PricewaterhouseCoopers partner told Bishop about two employees from Stanford and Saint Mary's. Asked to do a task, the Stanford grad said it wasn't in the best interests of his career path. The SMC grad said he would do it right away.



## ON THE WILD SIDE

Until you come face-to-face with a wild neighbor, it's easy to forget that you're sharing your urban space with a teeming, complex natural world. An app developed by Saint Mary's science students for the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek is designed to help Bay Area residents become more knowledgeable about local wildlife, share their photos and experiences through social media, and connect with educational programs and services offered by the museum. You can download the free app, LWM Encounters, from iTunes.



## Veterans Rule

More than 3,000 fans and some 100 former players and coaches packed McKeon Pavilion in June for the 2014 Gaels All-Star Classic & Alumni Game. The contest between the White Team (2000–09 players) and the Blue Team (2010–14 players) concluded with a thrilling 115-111 victory for the older players.

Paul Marigney '05 led the White Team, coached by former star E.J. Rowland, and earned Most Valuable Player with a game-high 42 points. Mickey McConnell '11 led the Blues with 35 points. Blues coach Matthew Dellavedova '13, a guard with the Cleveland Cavaliers, went 11-for-20 from the field and made six of his 13 three-point shots.

The festivities began with a traditional alumni game, with players from the past several decades. Guard Anthony Woodards (2001–03) led his team in scoring and earned Most Valuable Player. "The fact that people carved out time to come really says what the Saint Mary's experience is," said Rowland. —SMC Athletics

*Fans loved seeing veteran players back in McKeon and were given a thrilling game in which the older basketball stars triumphed 115-111.*



## ART ATTACK

More students—1,176 total—visited the Museum of Art this year than in the past decade. "It is a real challenge for all museums to get the students in," said museum Director Carrie Brewster. "Students are so focused on digital information that having to physically go somewhere is out of their consciousness." The museum also experienced a 56 percent rise in total exhibition attendance over 2012, Brewster said. Sales in the Museum Gift Shop were also robust, and 89 objects worth over \$220,000 were donated to the \$11 million collection.

# Kicking Cancer

After missing the past two seasons while undergoing treatment for leukemia, Saint Mary's men's soccer forward Emmanuel "Morro" Sarabia was granted a rare additional year of eligibility and this fall rejoined the active roster for one more season as a Gael.

In December 2011, just weeks after the Gaels won their first-ever West Coast Conference title and made a historic run to the NCAA Tournament Elite Eight, Sarabia returned to his native Truckee, only to find something wasn't quite right.

"I thought it was just a common cold," Sarabia said. "I was feeling fatigued, and I had a cough. I wasn't feeling myself. As an athlete, I felt I wasn't supposed to be losing my breath by walking around going up some stairs."

Sarabia was diagnosed with leukemia, a rare cancer that affects the immune system. He spent the next year undergoing treatment, holding onto the hope that one day he would rejoin his teammates in Moraga.

Meanwhile, with Sarabia's medical expenses piling up quickly, the SMC soccer team decided it wanted to help. With the help of Saint Mary's administration, a fund was set up in his name, and the coaches and players raised more than \$25,000.

Sarabia returned to school last spring, resumed training with the team, and was ultimately awarded an extra year of eligibility by the NCAA. And when the Gaels opened their season on Aug. 29 at Colgate (SMC lost 1-0), he was back on the field alongside his teammates.

"The pain Morro is going through to get back into shape is nothing compared to what he has gone through," said teammate Bobby Conner. "It is an inspiration to see him come out here every day." —SMC Athletics



*Almost three years after receiving a leukemia diagnosis and missing two seasons, Emmanuel Sarabia is back on the pitch for his last season as a Gael. SMC coaches and players raised more than \$25,000 to help him with medical expenses.*



## GRAD STUDENT BASKETBALLERS

With recent standout careers as undergraduates at Stanford University and University of Washington, Aaron Bright and Desmond Simmons have joined the Saint Mary's men's basketball program for one more opportunity to show off their skills on the hardwood.

They're also taking the next step toward building a life outside basketball.

Bright, a 5-foot-11 point guard from Bellevue, Wash., comes to Saint Mary's after winning Most Outstanding Player honors in the 2012 National Invitation Tournament while at Stanford. A highly touted floor general, Bright will try to fill the void left by Stephen Holt, who is now playing professionally.

Simmons is a 6-foot-7, 225-pound forward from Vallejo, who twice earned Washington's scholar-athlete and top hustler awards. It's a homecoming for the Salesian High-Richmond product, who was one of the top prep players in the Bay Area.

Bright and Simmons are both pursuing master's degrees from the Leadership Program, something that attracted them to Moraga. They are two big pieces to a puzzle that could come together quickly for the newest crop of Gaels. With 2013-14 All-West Coast Conference first-team selection Brad Waldow returning to lead the way in the post, the future is full of optimism for head coach Randy Bennett's squad.

—Ben Enos



# R

## ROUNDTABLE

### THE REV. GREGORY O. SCHAEFER '98

*Works in campus ministry at Stanford*

I wonder if the first (and most difficult?) part of loving the neighbor is seeing the neighbor. In the midst of our own struggles, sometimes it's hard to even see another in need. But then what? In the Good Samaritan story, Jesus extols the love of the Samaritan who, though himself despised, mistreated, mistrusted, sees and then has loving compassion for one in need. Maybe loving the neighbor is first recognizing Christ in one in need, and then responding as God does with us—treating another even better than we ourselves have been treated.



### DAYNA E. CHATMAN, M.A. '05

*Ph.D. candidate at USC Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism*

It means to listen, have empathy and compassion for others, and to respect experiences that are different from our own. This requires that we be self-reflective; we must evaluate our opinions, biases and experiences, and assess how these things frame our understanding of our neighbors. This process will enable us to develop the capacity to approach our differences in a civil manner and foster relationships that can potentially be productive in combating social injustices such as racism, sexism, xenophobia and homophobia.



### FATHER MIKE RUSSO

*Professor of Communication*

Neighbors take notice. Tonight on the TV news, I saw Dr. Kent Brantly's arrival at Emory University Hospital, having treated those suffering from the Ebola virus in Western Africa. Now, he's our neighbor. Another story about a chicken farmer in Gaza whose neighbors have come to live in his small apartment, the only place left standing in his war-torn town. So many children sheltered there and smiling for the camera—maybe the world will take notice. It's our chance to take notice of our neighbor—people we know and people we don't know.



### LAUREN SPEETH, M.B.A. '89

*Founder of Elfenworks, a nonprofit dedicated to eradicating poverty*

Jesus tells us neighbors can transcend boundaries and include so-called enemies. In our interconnected world, actions here have consequences across the seas. Everyone's our neighbor, even flora and fauna. When we realize this, we kindle a sense of kinship with humanity, and indeed all creation. Love of neighbor requires clear seeing: the state of things, what is needful, how our action or inaction might affect our neighbor. Then, it involves taking ownership, just like the Good Samaritan. Not just passing by, but rolling up our sleeves and getting involved. The good news is that it's a real path to joy.



### CAITLIN HUNGATE '06

*Former Peace Corps volunteer, now working at a public health research firm*

I see it as breaking down our individualistic societal constructs and building a sense of community grounded in our fundamental interconnectedness as humans. Building relationships and treating others with respect and kindness is part of it. Loving your neighbor is also grounded in action. For me, this may look like watching over a neighbor's home while he or she is out of town, or mentoring a middle school student in the Denver area. Our actions can be big, but the small actions also matter.



### THE TOPIC

Love your  
**neighbor**  
as yourself?

### DENNIS EROKAN

Public relations instructor

Building community and loving your neighbor go hand in hand. If you want to build a sense of trust, which is an important part of building community, then everyone must feel that they trust their neighbor. The United States has been the place where people from around the world feel they can enter and trust their neighbor. That isn't the case in many parts of the world. We take it as a matter of normalcy that we trust our neighbor, whether it's in the dorms at SMC, or in the towns nearby. It's a matter of trust.



### DANIEL MURPHY '13

Development coordinator at The Seven Hills School

The many wonderful people I encountered at Saint Mary's gave me invaluable perspective to not only what a neighbor means but how critical close social relationships are to one's well-being. Learning to work with all of the diverse "neighbors" in your life introduces new ideas and ways of life, crafting your personal worldview along the way. You can only learn to fully love your neighbors when you experience the willingness of others to lend a helping hand in times of need, certainly an inspiring reality prevalent in communities around the globe.



### ERICA CONWAY-WAHLE '91

Dentist who works with children with developmental disabilities

It means treating everyone as you would like to be treated. We all desire to be loved and accepted unconditionally, despite our shortcomings and disabilities. People may not do things that we might choose to do, but we shouldn't judge them, for we haven't walked in their shoes. God asks us to love one another. He is the only one who should judge. We need to give completely of ourselves to others, and they in turn will do the same.



### MARC DOMINGUEZ '96, M.A. '04

Counselor at Bishop O'Dowd High School

It starts with acknowledging that there is value in every life, whether you're the CEO of a big company or the guy asking for my aluminum cans for recycling. Life is hard sometimes for everyone. Wherever any one of us is in our lives, it needs to be valued. I try to meet people where they are and sit with them—sometimes physically, sometimes emotionally, sometimes spiritually, sometimes musically. That's where I see God—in the struggle, in the interaction, in the happiness. That's what balances me and helps me to be a better neighbor.



### GINNY PRIOR

Communication instructor

The Bible tells us to treat our neighbors with "compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience." Yet, our own politicians throw verbal barbs and shrill rhetoric at one another; whole countries are at war. What can be done? The path to peace has to begin individually, with each of us acting as a beacon of God's love. If whole neighborhoods live in harmony, then cities will follow, then counties and states and eventually countries. We must pray fervently for love to wash over the earth as we strive to form bonds in our own communities.



That's some trick. What does it really mean in this diverse, brawling world that seems to emphasize differences instead of common ground?

Do we love our neighbors because they are just like us? Or is the challenge of this core ethical tenet of the Judeo-Christian tradition and civil society rather more difficult than that? So we asked the question: What does it mean to love your neighbor?







# WRITING A LIFE

Saint Mary's M.F.A. students discover  
a new kind of service work.

*Janet Clark, a former IRS agent, has begun work on a mystery novel, an offshoot of her experience as one of 20 seniors taking Document Your Life Story at Lafayette Community Center, taught by creative writing graduate students at Saint Mary's. Here, Clark confers with M.F.A. student Michael Caligaris.*



**M**ichael Caligaris, 25, remembers facing his first roomful of students in February 2013—every one of whom had at least a few wrinkles and a lifetime of experiences. A dual-degree M.F.A. candidate in creative writing, he had been selected as the first graduate student intern to helm a new, four-month Document Your Life Story workshop at the Lafayette Community Center.

“I was the guinea pig,” Caligaris said cheerfully. Adding to his first-timer’s nerves was the fact that the 20 or so fledgling writers entrusted to his literary guidance were not only old enough to be his parents, but were in fact old enough to be his grandparents.

Now in its third year, the free, drop-in Document Your Life Story workshop—a thoughtfully forged partnership between Saint Mary’s, the College’s Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action (CILSA) and the Senior Services program at the Lafayette Community Center—pairs select M.F.A. creative writing students with seniors from the Lamorinda area. For the Saint Mary’s students, it’s a chance to engage in the College’s strong social justice internship program as well as to gain valuable teaching experience. For the senior writers, it’s an often longed-for opportunity to create a record of their lives, work through difficult issues or just experience the joy of writing.

“It’s just beautiful to see that that’s happening,” said Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies Christopher Sindt, who has been instrumental in shaping the “M.F.A. with a conscience” program at Saint Mary’s. In addition to the Document Your Life Story workshop, graduate creative writing students have the opportunity to participate in a senior oral history project, à la Studs Terkel, for the Lafayette Historical Archives; and a new project with We Care Services for Children in Concord that gives voice to parents of children with special needs. “There’s real learning happening from the student’s perspective about how different communities work,” Sindt said.

Among Caligaris’ students was Treva Perkins, a long-retired middle school teacher who had not, she said, “written anything since college.” But Perkins, who lives in Lafayette, was getting older and didn’t want her life history to be a mystery to her two adult daughters the way her own parents’ lives had been to her. “Kids have a tendency not to ask,” she said. “I didn’t ask.”

Through her participation with the writing workshop, she has filled in the gaps for her daughters and gone on to other topics as well. Perkins also studied with the workshop’s second intern instructor, Yuska Lutfi M.F.A. ’14, in the spring of 2014, and looks forward to another life story workshop stint this year. “It’s my life,” she said. “I get to write about what I want to write about.”

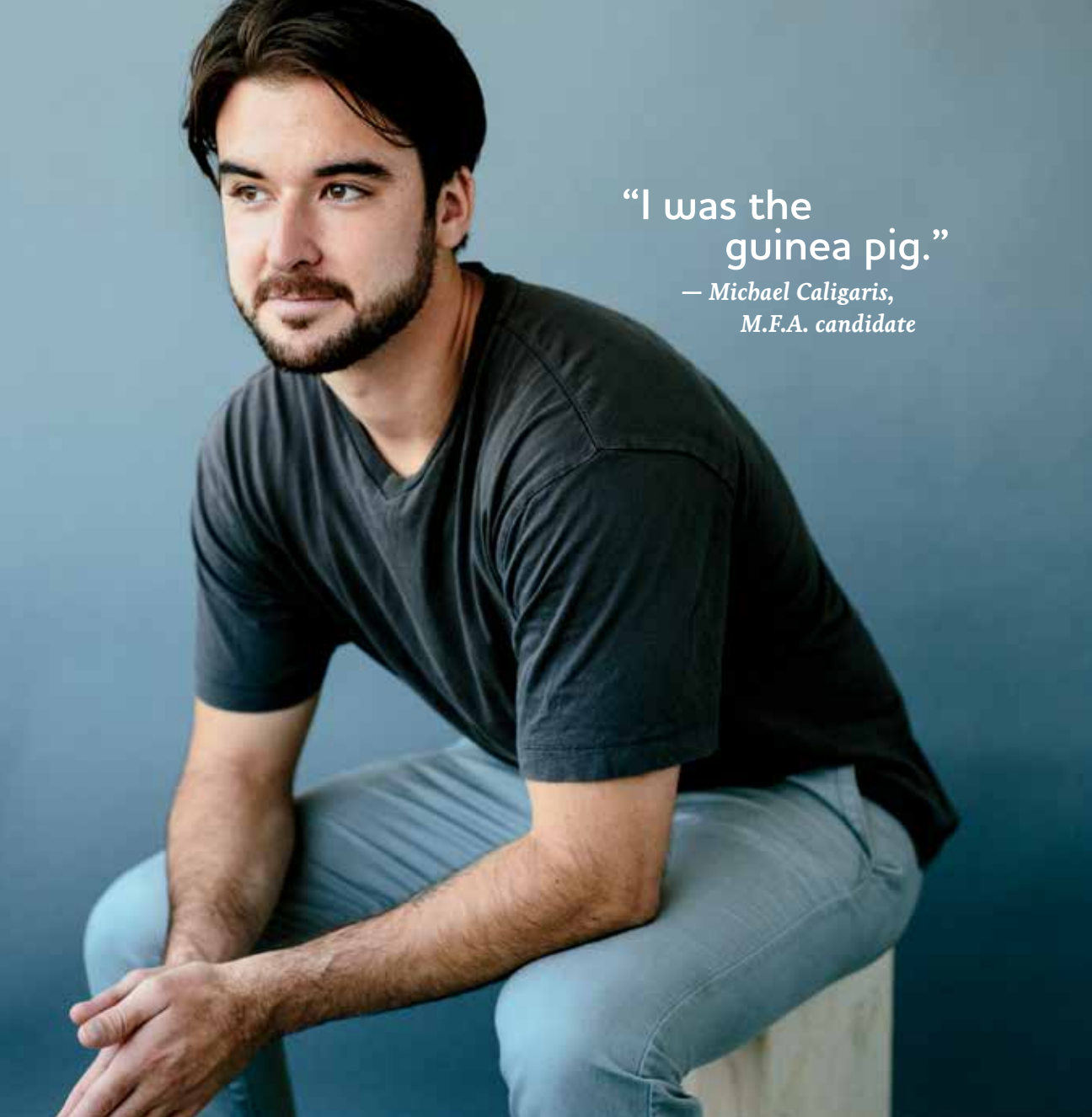
Joan Wahl Countryman, 80, came to the workshop having already written some short stories about her childhood in Ireland. Caligaris describes one of her pieces as “this whole beautiful backstory, running through the heather, coming to America.” A Moraga resident who characterizes her current life as “well-rounded” and busy with tennis, walking and grandchildren, Countryman said the workshops have provided useful literary lessons in “what works and what doesn’t.” She has particularly benefitted from coaching on the effective use of dialogue, she said, and she’s grateful for receiving “encouragement to continue writing and to improve.”

“I was not a creative writer,” said Janet Clark of Pleasant Hill, a self-described world traveler and “incendiary” feminist who has also participated in the senior writing workshop since its inception. But through her former career as an IRS agent, which involved analyzing the pleas of taxpayers who felt they couldn’t pay their taxes, Clark said she “learned the value of choosing the right words and how you framed certain things, and it was a challenge I enjoyed.”

Now, after two sessions in the workshop, Clark, 71, has an impressive swath

*Michael Caligaris, a current M.F.A. student in creative writing, faced his first roomful of writing students in February 2013 as the leader of a new four-month writing workshop for seniors. Joan Wahl Countryman, a student in Caligaris’ class, said she has learned how to write better dialogue and appreciates the encouragement.*





“I was the  
guinea pig.”

— Michael Caligaris,  
M.F.A. candidate

of writing under her belt—none of it related to federal tax matters. Like Perkins, Clark says, “[I] first anticipated my audience to be my children, but my audience became all kinds of people.” She has produced a series of childhood vignettes, and her short pieces have been published by “a couple of small papers.” Now, she’s working on a mystery novel and—hinting at the poignancy of the material that sometimes emerges in the workshop—says, “I even got into some poetry, trying to address losing my oldest son.”

Although many people helped build the alliance between Lafayette Senior Services and Saint Mary’s, the workshop owes its existence to the Lafayette Community

Center’s Program Coordinator, Maureen Neumann, and her special passion for working with the elderly. “My father lived in assisted living for nine years,” Neumann recalled, “and every time I visited, I would sit and chat with the seniors, but sometimes I could tell that they wanted more one-on-one time. They just wanted to talk, to tell people, ‘When I was in World War II...’ or ‘When I lived on a farm in Kentucky...’” Neumann, for her part, was happy to listen.

“It was a win-win situation,” she continued. “Not only was I able to provide compassion, but I was so enriched by the stories they were telling me. I knew they were precious, and if they weren’t



## TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR LIFE STORY

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“Ask yourself, what’s the one main thing you want to take out of one central experience. Write at least five days a week, maybe starting out of order. Maybe today I’m going to write about that experience when I was 14, and then tomorrow, the girlfriend I lost when I was 35.”

—Michael Caligaris, instructor

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“Take a year—1970, 1990, whatever. Write down five things that happened in that year. Choose one of them, and write about it. You don’t have to write *War and Peace*. Just get your thoughts down there, and go with it. And feelings, that’s what makes it all colorful.”

—Trevia Perkins, student

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“The more you write and the more you read, the better you get—just doing it and doing it.”

—Janet Clark, student

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“Memories are very malleable, and they change over time. They become memories of memories, and one person’s memories of an experience can be different from another person’s. So I tell my students not to worry about not being objective in their writing.”

—Yuska Lutfi, instructor

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“I think most people would need to just get started someplace and then go from there.”

—Joan Wahl Countryman, student





Web extra: Read  
the Lafayette  
Seniors Writing  
Workshop  
Anthology: [http://  
lafayetteseniors.  
wordpress.com](http://lafayetteseniors.wordpress.com).

“These seniors are  
cheeky, energetic,  
and very, very loving.”

— Yuska Lutfi, M.F.A. '14

THIS PHOTO: VANESSA STUMP

*In a writing class taught by Saint Mary's M.F.A. students, Treva Perkins (left) a retired middle school teacher, has written her life history for her two adult daughters. Yuska Lutfi, who led the class in 2014, launched a blog to showcase the students' writing and was impressed by the seniors' zest for life.*



documented, they would be lost.” Neumann eventually started a Document Your Life Story workshop at her father’s assisted living facility and reached out to Saint Mary’s to re-create it for Lamorinda seniors when she was hired by the Lafayette Community Center.

Wars, marriages, careers, parenthood, heartbreak, joy, tragedy, loss—the senior writers have lived through it all. Caligaris, who is working on “a well-edited collection of short stories” for his second M.F.A., was well equipped to help students create compelling characters, write true-to-life dialogue and keep a story moving forward. But when it came to life lessons, the students were clearly the experts. For example, Caligaris said, “I don’t really think about death at my age. But a lot of the students were widows and widowers, which I had no experience dealing with.

“That was the hardest thing,” Caligaris continued, “trying to balance how raw they were as writing students and how much experience they had with really sensitive subjects. At times, it was a very cathartic moment or a sensitive moment for some of them, where they had to step out or sit there quietly while they collected themselves.”

Wrestling with discomfort might not be everybody’s idea of a peak experience, but it’s part of the goal for Saint Mary’s social justice interns, according to Marshall Welch, director of CILSA at Saint Mary’s.

Participating in an internship like the one at the Lafayette Community Center, Welch said, “tends to rock our world. Student instructors go in and say, ‘I’m going to do this for this group,’ and they find they didn’t know as much as they thought.”

For example, a student teacher may be shocked to see “how our culture deals

with the elderly,” Welch said, and find himself or herself “really confronting ageism. They get insight and learn to question—How do we honor and respect elders?”

Not that you’re likely to find the “elders” in the workshop striking dignified poses on pedestals. Lutfi, an outgoing 31-year-old who received dual M.F.A.’s in creative nonfiction and fiction last spring and led the workshop’s 2014 session, was startled by the seniors’ zest for life in all its dimensions. One day, recalled Lutfi, who had previously taught belly dancing and is working on a book about drag queens in Indonesia, “I said to the class, ‘OK, I have essays on two topics: fashion and sex. Which one do you want to read?’

“Everyone shouted, ‘Sex!’

“I’m telling you, these seniors are cheeky, energetic, and very, very loving,” said Lutfi, who launched a blog to showcase the students’ writing. “They listen; they take notes; they read; they give excellent feedback to one another.”

Back at the Lafayette Community Center, the buzz about the senior writing workshop continues to percolate; this year, two sections will be offered, each facilitated by a different intern from the M.F.A. creative writing program. “I’m so excited about this program,” said Neumann, who characterized the relationship between the senior writers and their young teachers as a “love fest.”

“I was blown away both times by the amount of work that the facilitators put into it,” she said. “And I was struck with the heart that both Michael and Yuska had for these seniors, and how attached the seniors became to them.”

Perkins, who looks forward to another year of memoir writing, urged her peers—writers or otherwise—not to be shy about checking out the workshop. “Come and join us!” she said, adding that encouragement and kindness, not criticism, are the group’s *modus operandi*. After all, she said, “It’s a seniors class, and we’re supposed to be having fun.”

*Janet Clark has written a series of childhood vignettes and had a few pieces published. She also wrote some poetry to explore a deep personal loss.*









BY ZACHARY AMENDT / ILLUSTRATION BY KALEY MCKEAN

# Super G

The Confluence of  
Gratitude and Giving





“

It turns out there's more to philanthropy than just doing good and more to gratitude than just saying, "Thanks." Grateful and generous people are happier, healthier and more positive than people who aren't, according to emerging data.

”



## It's Science

Why do we give?

What compels some of us to donate a pint of blood every six weeks for 30 years?

How is it we continue to give of ourselves and our time in situations—like soup kitchens and homeless shelters—where we receive no material gain?

Feeling good is just one of the more pedestrian benefits of gratitude and altruism, according to Saint Mary's Psychology Professor Mary True. Other, more profound benefits involve gaining a sense of community and belonging.

"A generous life is a connected life," said True, who teaches human development in the Psychology Department. "We have known for a long time that the most critical moments of connection, the birth and the nurturing of an infant, are accompanied by the release of oxytocin, the trust hormone. A solid body of more recent research has demonstrated that other social

interactions, including warm couple interactions, father-child play, and expressed gratitude, are linked to—and enhanced by—the release of oxytocin. We are biologically wired to give."

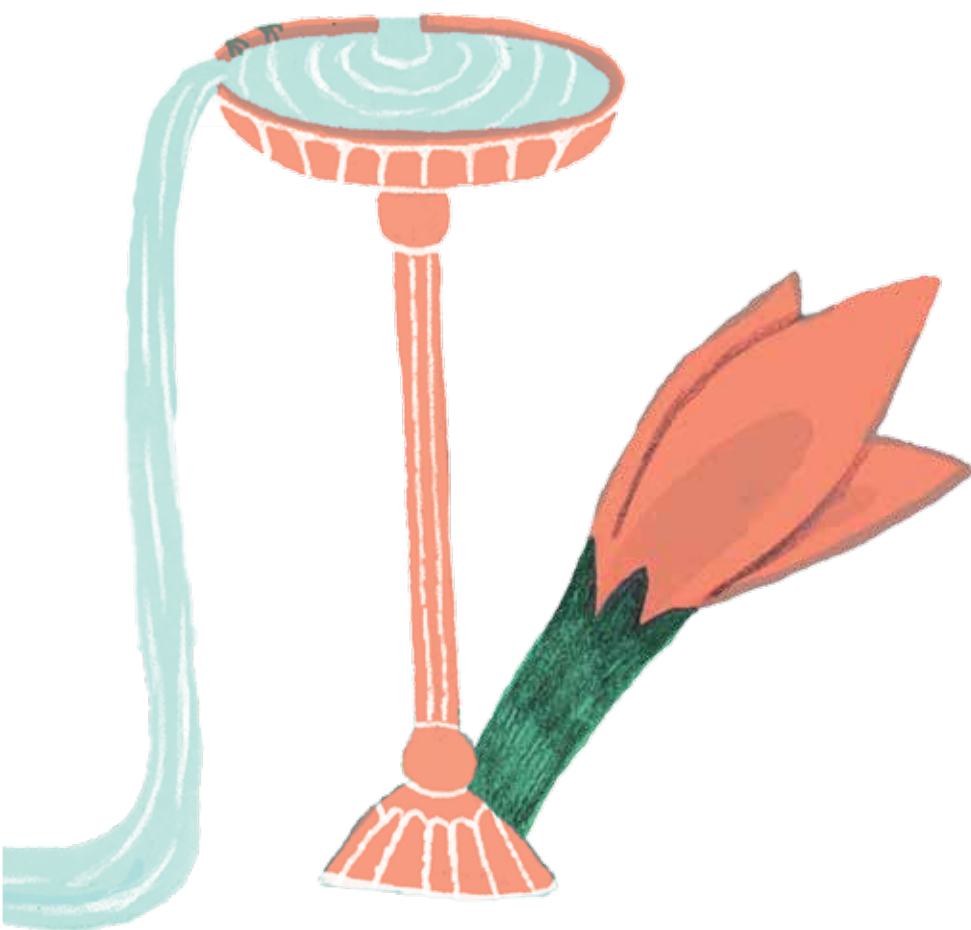
Leading experts in what's called positive psychology research support True's insights. Participants who kept a gratitude journal—nothing elaborate, just a few sentences a week—were more optimistic, exercised more and visited their physicians less, wrote Robert Emmons of the University of California, Davis, in a *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* study.

Thankfulness can also work as a cardiac and neurological super food. Emmons' studies have linked gratitude with reduced blood pressure and lowered risk of heart attack. And experiments by the National Institutes of Health suggest that giving thanks not only fends off anxiety and depression, but also results in better, deeper sleep. In fact, gratitude stimulates activity in the area of the brainstem where the neurotransmitter

dopamine originates, helping to regulate our z's, according to Roland Zahn's study, "The Neural Basis of Human Social Values: Evidence From Functional MRI." Dopamine also regulates movement and emotional responses, and helps to control the brain's reward and pleasure centers.

Researching exactly how gratitude affects our brain and DNA drives the staff and student fellows at the Greater Good Science Center, at the University of California, Berkeley. An unusual on-campus gratitude think tank, the center sponsors and supports the same wellness science it later helps people apply to their own lives and communities.

In September, the center launched its first MOOC (massive open online course)—The Science of Happiness, a free, eight-week-long class that "zeroes in on a fundamental finding from positive psychology," said the center's Marketing Director, Elise Proulx. "Namely, that happiness is inextricably linked to having strong social ties and contributing to something bigger than yourself: the greater good."



“

Happiness is inextricably linked to having strong social ties and contributing to something bigger than yourself: the greater good.

—Greater Good Science Center

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# Gratitude Incubator

“

They literally see and experience the complex issues and dynamics of what they study and read about in class. This is often a transformative experience in which the lives, assumptions, beliefs and behaviors of students change.

—CILSA Director Marshall Welch

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While people may think that giving and doing good are the province of older adults, it turns out that college-age Saint Mary's students—a cadre of young people who are pound-for-pound among the most active philanthropists at any school nationwide—are often way ahead of the curve when it comes to community service.

Cultivating and harnessing students' desire to help is the function of the Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action (CILSA), which since 1999 has promoted a culture of social responsibility congruent with Lasallian values at Saint Mary's. CILSA's staff involves the entire campus community, from student leaders to faculty to alumni, organizing and carrying out service campaigns in partnership with Bay Area companies and nonprofits.

Giving back isn't a one-size-fits-all proposition, said CILSA Director Marshall Welch.

“We see both immediate and long-term impact on students in CILSA as well as SMC students in general. The act of service and giving extends the learning experience beyond the four walls of the classroom,” Welch said. “They literally see and experience the complex issues and dynamics of what they study and read about in class. This is often a transformative experience in which the lives, assumptions, beliefs and behaviors of students change.”

After a period of initiation he terms “squirm and learn,” Welch noted that many CILSA student leaders go on to graduate school and/or careers with a service or social justice component.

For Brother Michael Murphy, director of Mission and Ministry, the spiritual aspects of philanthropy focus on “solidarity with the three L's: the least, the last and the lost. It's giving with the eyes of faith, being mindful of those people who are fractured, excluded in our midst and living on the margins of





“

My experience as a professor for the last 25 years is that the students we are now teaching (the millennials) are very willing—eager, in fact—to step out of their comfort zone and engage with persons and communities different than their own.

—Professor Mary True

”

society. It's saying 'I'm not the Messiah, but I do have a role to play.' That's the mystery of philanthropy. It invites all people—from Christian to atheist—to ask, 'What are you doing with your fire, and how are you developing a compassionate heart?'"

One local nonprofit that is indicative of CILSA's "head, heart and hands" and Brother Michael's "compassionate heart" approach is the Mindful Life Project started in the East Bay by Saint Mary's graduate JG Larochette '02. The program, which offers yoga, therapeutic art, hip-hop and mindfulness classes for students in need, has improved attention spans and caring, and decreased conflicts and prejudice.

"In the work I am doing with youth in Richmond and Rodeo, I see how important it is to give students an opportunity to be still and quiet while opening up to the experiences around them," Larochette wrote on his Mindful Life blog. "They then have the capability to be in tune with their inner self, and be way more present with the ones around them."

Welch has noticed that young people who have learned mindfulness in programs like Larochette's reflect more on their own philanthropy.

"Students often recognize or discover their own power and privilege while giving of themselves," he said. "They make meaning of the service experience and often discover that they receive as much from those they serve as they do from serving others."

And this theme spans all academic disciplines at Saint Mary's.

"My experience as a professor for the last 25 years is that the students we are now teaching (the millennials) are very willing—eager, in fact—to step out of their comfort zone and engage with persons and communities different than their own," True said. "Nationwide, research has shown an upward trend in students' interest in addressing issues of justice and the common good."

These observations and research in gratitude seem to suggest that Saint Mary's students are getting high on giving back. Studies have characterized the neurological benefits of those who help out as an empathic joy or warm glow, which researchers now say is the brain's way of rewarding us for the simple logic of good deeds.

"There are spiritual benefits to service and giving," Welch said. "We sustain ourselves spiritually when we give something back through time, talent or treasure."





# Uncommon Soldiers

...that supreme moment when the



**W**OMEN HAVE FOUGHT IN COMBAT FOR CENTURIES, LARGELY UNHERALDED BY HISTORY, DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT WAS NOT UNTIL JANUARY 2013 THAT THE U.S. PENTAGON OFFICIALLY PERMITTED THEM TO SERVE DIRECTLY IN BATTLE. IN THE CIVIL WAR, DISGUISED AS MEN, “THEY FOUGHT LIKE DEMONS,” WROTE A YOUNG MAN TO HIS FATHER ABOUT THE CONFEDERATE WOMEN WARRIORS IN THE 1864 BATTLE OF DALLAS IN GEORGIA.

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The estimated number of women who fought as men on both sides of America’s bloodiest conflict ranges from a documented 250 to more than 1,000 souls. No one is sure, because many of them died and were buried as men, taking the stories of their service to the grave.

“We only know about these women through letters from soldiers writing home—about finding a wounded woman on the battlefield or witnessing a woman giving birth in the ranks,” said Erin Lindsay McCabe M.F.A. ’10, whose novel *I Shall Be Near to You* (Crown Publishers, 2014) was inspired by a collection of

letters written home by a woman soldier, one of only three whose letters have been found.

McCabe found *An Uncommon Soldier: The Civil War Letters of Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, Alias Pvt. Lyons Wakeman, 153rd Regiment, New York State Volunteers, 1862–1864*, edited by Lauren Cook Burgess, while searching for a primary source for her final paper in an undergraduate U.S. women’s history course at U.C. Santa Cruz. “We didn’t cover this topic in class,” McCabe said.

Wakeman’s letters marked the beginning of a relationship across time that would haunt McCabe for a decade before



she finally started writing about the fictional character she named Rosetta.

"It seemed like Rosetta came to me fully formed. Over the years, she occasionally popped into my head," McCabe said. "And she just wouldn't shut up." Then one night as McCabe crawled into bed, she heard a voice. "It was Rosetta's voice. I thought OK, this is special. If I don't write this down, I'm going to regret it." So she got up and started writing the story.

Rosetta's is a tale of young newlyweds with a humble dream caught up in the brutal forces of a national conflict. Already inclined to defy the antebellum standards of appropriate womanhood, Rosetta enlists in the Army to be with her husband, Jeremiah, who had joined the Union Army against her wishes. He saw it as the chance to make the money they needed for the farm they both longed for. And by disguising herself as a man, Rosetta, like the real mid-19th-century women who took this gamble, had a shot at the kind of freedom and compensation she could never have enjoyed in a dress.

Indeed, some of the women who survived the war spent the rest of their lives living as men; some apparently had lived as men before enlisting. "But many went to war with husbands, lovers or other family members," McCabe said. "They couldn't bear to be separated from them; they thought they could tend to them if they were wounded. Some left behind children to fight beside their men." More than a few of the documented women soldiers joined by themselves, made good friends, performed admirably and learned to drink, curse, brawl, spit, and use tobacco like the men they were able to observe close up.

**"Since there is so much about the experience that these women haven't told us, I had a lot of freedom to imagine."**

Erin Lindsay McCabe  
M.F.A. '10



### **THREE FEMALE SOLDIERS IN THE CIVIL WAR**

BOTH PAGES, FROM LEFT:

**FRANCES CLAYTON  
DISGUISED HERSELF AS  
"FRANCES CLALIN" TO  
FIGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR.**

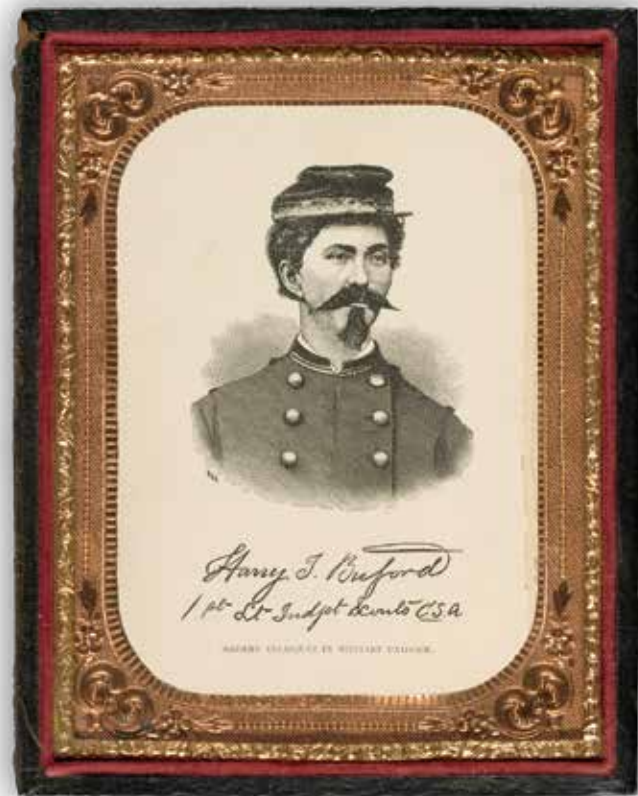
**SARAH EMMA  
EDMONDS  
("FRANKLIN THOMPSON")**

**LORETA JANETA  
VELAZQUEZ  
("HARRY T. BUFORD")**

And while they all had different reasons for volunteering, according to a source McCabe relied upon—*They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the American Civil War*, by DeAnne Blanton and Lauren M. Cook—women enlisted for some of the same reasons men did: patriotism, honor, glory and excitement. And they fought valiantly, serving at every level, some as majors.

Today, it's difficult to imagine pulling off such a deception, but enlistment then was accomplished with little more than a handshake. Women who bound their breasts as Rosetta did, cut their hair and wore baggy clothes were not much different from the smooth-skinned adolescent boys who joined the ranks by the thousands in what is sometimes referred to as "The Boys' War." And as Blanton and Cook point out, the prevalent notion of Victorian womanhood simply blinded men to signs that would otherwise have been obvious.

With the dearth of compelling detail about the female soldier's life and the



reticent nature of surviving letters, it's difficult to know how her experience was different from a man's, McCabe said. "But that's what makes this so ripe for fiction, because we just don't know." In fact, Wakeman's letters weren't much different from the letters written by male soldiers of the time. "She said she was willing to fight, unafraid of battle and excited, at first. Since there is so much about the experience that these women haven't told us, I had a lot of freedom to imagine."

And so McCabe vividly created Rosetta's story, populating it with fully envisioned characters, along with hope, longing, friendship and violence. She takes us inside Rosetta's head to see through her eyes the heroics and devastation of the Battle of Bull Run.

"The screams. That came right out of the letters," McCabe said, noting that Civil War letter writers, in a time of uncensored correspondence from the battlefield, were still reluctant to describe what they saw

and felt in combat. "Although one man's letter home described hearing a wounded woman's screams all through a long night on the battlefield as the most horrifying thing he had ever witnessed."

In retrospect, McCabe realizes she might have been naive about the difficulty of writing the battle scenes. "It seems obvious now, of course," she said. "It's so hard to send characters you care about into that situation, knowing they aren't all going to have great outcomes." She acknowledged that she wept while writing these scenes.

In writing as honestly as she could about the personal experience of warfare through a woman's eyes, McCabe said she never intended her novel to be anti-war, "although I hope it helps

readers to think about the horrors of war, what it does to people and whether it's really worth it," she said. "In the case of America's Civil War, we can say it was worth it because it ended something else

that was horrible. But there was a really heavy cost."

McCabe also wanted *I Shall Be Near to You* to be inspiring, "to serve as an example of women's active involvement in every part of our country's history," she said.

She's been surprised by the number of readers who have written to say how much they appreciated the story because it helped them to better understand the sacrifice and service of their ancestors who fought in the Civil War. "I really didn't expect that," she said.

McCabe used the beginnings of Rosetta's story to apply for Saint Mary's M.F.A. in creative writing program and finished writing it with the support and advice of her fellow writers in the program, and her professors and mentors Rosemary Graham and Marilyn Abildskov.

*I Shall Be Near to You* has received gratifying attention—"more than I ever dreamed," McCabe said—with enthusiastic reviews from major publications and the likes of novelist Pat Conroy, bestselling author of *The Prince of Tides* and *The Death of Santini*, who said, "If you don't like this book, you don't like to read."

**"The screams.  
That came  
right out of  
the letters."**

Erin Lindsay McCabe  
M.F.A. '10





# Building Trust Through Leadership

BY JO SHROYER /  
PHOTOS BY STEPHAN  
BABULJAK

*The San Francisco Business Times recently named Bethami Dobkin, Saint Mary's provost, to its annual list of the Bay Area's most influential women. A native of Arcata, Calif., Dobkin came to Saint Mary's from the University of San Diego, where she was a professor of communication for 17 years and had served in a number of leadership roles. She has achieved national recognition for her research and teaching, and her honors include a fellowship in executive leadership with the American Council on Education.*



**Why is the recognition from the *San Francisco Business Times* important?**

It's great for the College. It reminds Bay Area readers that our impact is expansive and that a commitment to diversity can add excellence to an organization. It's more evidence that we belong among the best universities in the region. Personally, I think it's also important to acknowledge women in leadership roles in ways that showcase their positive influence, particularly as role models for other women.

**Why do you think Sheryl Sandberg's book, *Lean In*, has struck a chord with today's young women, reviving the conversation about women in leadership?**

They really want to hear stories about women's success. That was one of the joys of being in the classroom. My students wanted personal stories, not because I was particularly exceptional, but because I was one of those women that many of them saw as having "made it"—professionally, personally and socially. They're hungry to hear about making that all work.

We had an interesting discussion at a recent executive women's roundtable for the School of Economics and Business Administration. For so many years, the discussion for women has been about balance. For me, it's not an issue of balance, because that suggests a trade-off. Instead, it's about identity management. In this moment in my office right now, I am not acting as a mother. But I don't cease having an identity as a mother nor do I stop thinking about my kids. And I don't keep it out of my conversations because it's always with me. But I have to put that in the background depending on the context. The idea of achieving balance, as if all things should be equal all the time, or I'm "trading" my love for family for my passion for work makes for an impossible situation. It suggests I'm always losing something, when it's more about managing when and where I need to be fully present.

**Where do you find inspiration and an escape from the strains of daily life?**

Being on the trail with my horse, where there's no cellphone access. And that daily walk down to the barn to feed the horses is sometimes a chore, but it's often also an escape because it's so disconnected from everything else. Riding and being outdoors has always been my best source of creative thinking, too.

**Have you always had horses?**

Since I was 12. For about a year, I rode my bike to a barn where horses were boarded, fed the animals and cleaned the stalls in exchange for lessons. My parents couldn't afford to board and feed a horse, but finally, my mother said, "I will spend \$500 on a horse, and when you're done with this foolishness, I want my \$500 back." That never happened. I kept riding horses. As an undergraduate, I spent a year at the University of Massachusetts riding on their dressage team. In graduate school, I rode as much as I could, and during my first summer as a faculty member, I trained horses. That's when I met my husband, Randy, who is a farrier. He can watch a horse and its movement and find a way to help it perform to the best of its natural ability. In a sense, we both kind of do the same thing.

**How so?**

In education, you try to create a learning environment that allows the best of students to come through, so they can discover their potential. And just like with horses, that requires building relationships and trust. In a situation where trust is

not assumed, how do you build it? Working with horses has been a way to introduce leadership concepts within my own team; I've taken them to a ranch for leadership development. For example, most horses don't naturally want to be with people, so how do you create an environment where they'd rather work with you than not? How do you show them you understand their perspective? What should they learn to expect from you, and how will clarity and consistency improve your working together? There are plenty of things that working with horses can teach us.

*"Working with horses has been a way to introduce leadership concepts within my own team."*

**You have a vanity license plate that reads LRN2LVE. What does it mean? Learn to live?**

That's one option. When people ask me about it, I say, "What do you think it means?" Learn to love is one possible interpretation. And a third, which hadn't occurred to me until someone

suggested it—learn to leave. All really important ideas, but the core is learning, about creating a road map for your life. We're constantly learning. Are we willing to learn how to do all three things? Because they're all important.





# Q

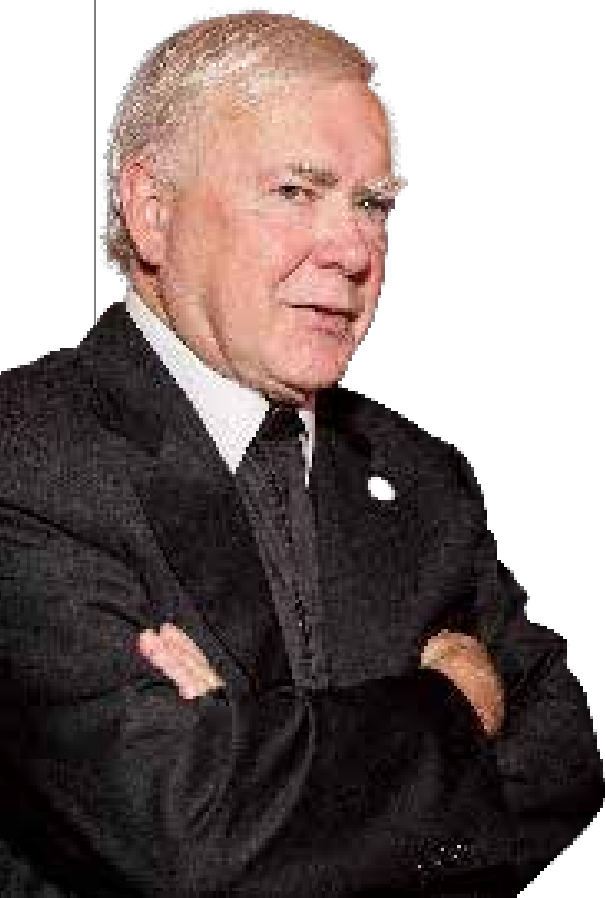
QUAD

## SACRED HEART PRESIDENT

Former SMC President Brother Ronald Gallagher, FSC, is serving a one-year appointment as the interim president for Sacred Heart Cathedral (SHC) Preparatory high school in San Francisco while the school conducts a national search for a permanent leader.

"Sacred Heart Cathedral is an outstanding school. I look forward to working with the entire SHC community in furthering the Lasallian, Vincentian mission in San Francisco," said Brother Ronald.

Sacred Heart serves young men and women in grades nine through 12 and is part of the Archdiocese of San Francisco Department of Catholic Schools, sponsored by the De La Salle Christian Brothers and the Daughters of Charity.



*Marilyn Paquette '97 heads up De La Salle Academy in Concord, which opened this year to educate boys from low-income neighborhoods in grades five through eight.*



## Alumni Open New School

Just 12 miles east of campus in Concord, a group of Saint Mary's alums has opened a new middle school for boys in grades five through eight from low-income families. Housed in a former office building, De La Salle Academy sits across the street from the Big C Athletic Club and more importantly, the Community Youth Center, where the inaugural 35 fifth- and sixth-graders can cook, play chess or wrestle after school.

A division of De La Salle High School three miles away, the academy is part of the San Miguel middle schools sponsored by the De La Salle Christian Brothers—a model that educates children in low-income neighborhoods nationwide, including in Providence, R.I., where Principal Marilyn Paquette '97 was a Lasallian Volunteer.

"This is going to be transformative for these families. We entered into an 11- or 12-year partnership when they were accepted," said Paquette. The school supports the students throughout high school and beyond.

With Paquette as principal, Mark DeMarco '83 as president, and Ken Hofmann '45 and Lisa Hofmann Morgan '81 as the benefactors, the academy and its Lasallian mission are in experienced hands. Even the office manager, Fernanda Olivera '14, graduated from SMC.

Miguel model schools focus on breaking the cycle of poverty through rigorous education, beginning in fifth grade, when children are particularly vulnerable.

"Fifth grade is crucial," said Paquette, whose passion is to be with students. "We either reach them or we easily lose them."

The academy hopes to thoroughly engage the boys with an extended school day, which begins with breakfast, then small classes, followed by an hour of homework with tutors and small study groups, and finally, enrichment activities until 5 p.m.

Each of the families, who mostly hail from the Concord area plus from Bay Point, Martinez, Pittsburg and Vallejo, signed a covenant with the academy, promising to donate both time and whatever they can afford (about \$50–\$250 monthly). Families must live at less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level—\$43,568 a year for a family of four in 2014—to qualify for admission. About 50 boys applied for the 35 spots in fifth and sixth grades; the school will add a new fifth grade each year. Thanks to the Hofmanns' generosity, tuition is completely free for five years. —Sarah Weld

## NEW LEGAL HEIGHTS

Three alumnae rose to new legal heights in June, elected as district attorneys or appointed to the bench.

Kathleen Meehan '77 was appointed to a judgeship in the Fresno County Superior Court by Governor Jerry Brown. Meehan, from Fresno, has served as a commissioner at the Fresno County Superior Court since 2011 and as a deputy attorney general at the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, from 2008 to 2011. She graduated from the University of California, Davis School of Law.

Tori Verber Salazar '87, an attorney specializing in gang homicide, won the San Joaquin County district attorney race with almost 80 percent of the vote. Salazar, from Woodbridge, has been working for the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office for 27 years, where she began as an intern.

Anne Marie Schubert '86, a former deputy district attorney, won the Sacramento district attorney race with 58 percent of the vote. Schubert is the first openly gay leader to hold a countywide office in Sacramento. A graduate of the University of San Francisco School of Law, Schubert has worked as a prosecutor for 24 years, including the last 18 in Sacramento.

When it comes to interpreting and enforcing the law, there's no one like a Saint Mary's grad.



**PAUL EBENKAMP**  
M.F.A. '09

*is the author of several collections of poetry, including The Louder the Room the Darker the Screen (Timeless Infinite Light, forthcoming 2015) and Four Colors for the Based God (The Equalizer: Second Series, 2014).*

## Surroundings

On sundown to sundown

did it never sink in.

There's something missing on my mind—

what's it like?

What's it sound like?

One ear hears what the other only chokes out—

hints me there,

hints me home.

*Poetry editor's note: Of this spare and carefully philosophical piece, the author writes: "The line 'There's something missing on my mind' just showed up, like a boulder falling into the placid lake of my brain, while I was walking from my house to the copy shop on Ashby and Shattuck two years ago ... the world (by which I mean what's perceived of it as we live) never really arrives and never really leaves; I'm always in transit, yet always in one place."*





## Joyous Reunion

It was a sea of smiles on campus the weekend of July 19 when 555 Gael alumni, family and friends gathered for the 2014 Alumni Reunion. Among the Golden Gaels (alumni from the classes of 1953 and earlier), the most golden was George Dini '46. A Gael from Guam traveled 5,822 miles to attend while others traveled from London and Bermuda. A total of 16 states were represented at the joyous event, and Gaels from SMC Graduate and Professional Studies took part this year. One Gael couple—Mike '79 and Roselle Nerney '79—celebrated their anniversary at the reunion.

"The whole event was a class act," said Colleen Marquez '84. "[It was] beautiful to come out of Mass to see everything all set up with appetizers and libations, with dinner on the lawn under the lights."

*Pictured: lower left, Brother Mel Anderson; upper left, Judy Murphy, Larry Coleman '59 (getting a hug from Muff Keating, wife of James Keating '59) and John Vennemeyer '59; center, Natalie Hafferty (Wilson) '04, Courtney Carmignani Lohmann '05, M.A. '07, and Milad Sarkis '04; upper right, Judge Larry Appel '64; lower right, Anis Salah '04 (left) and Toussaint Bailey '02.*



**FAREWELL FOR REAL** Butch Whacks and the Glass Packs, a rock-and-roll comedy sketch entertainment group started by Gael brothers Jerry Murphy '72 and Gary Murphy '74 in 1971, gave its final performance in late June. Although the group—which has included Julio Lopez '73, Bill Lazzaretti '72, Dan Ritzo '72, Craig Martin '72 and John Buick '74—has given a series of sellout farewell performances over the years, this time it was for real. Their many fans will miss them.



# Little Big Game '88


**WARREN PARKER '87**

I was part of the team that went 10-0 in 1988. Our last game was against Santa Clara, and we were down.

We had to score on the last drive to win the game, and I was on the offense. It was one of the most amazing things that ever happened in my entire life. When you bring 60 to 70 different mind-sets together for one common goal, it is a testament to our coaching staff and to the leadership of our team captains. We had just one goal, and we stated at the first game before the season that we were going to go undefeated, because that was a goal our coach set for us and that was something we wanted to accomplish. That day, the fans rushed the field after we won—it was just crazy!


**TIM ROSENKRANZ '90**

My best memory of SMC is the 1988 season when we went 10-0. By the time 1988 rolled around, there

were a lot of people going to the football games, including people coming from the town of Moraga. It was exciting! We had a pretty special group of kids that made up the team, and that's why we ended up having success; good coaching and that special bond between players is how we came together. The Little Big Game against Santa Clara was very close and very exciting. We expected a lot of ourselves. The last touchdown I threw to Jon Braff in the corner of the end zone in that game would have to be my most memorable play. A lot of people who were there remember that play, so it was a big moment for everyone, not just the team.


**TOM BRUCE '67**

Coming to a game on a fall Saturday afternoon in Moraga was very special—tremendous parking lot

parties and after-game parties in the Redwood Grove. It was a way to celebrate a great game. And Saturdays really haven't been the same since football left, but we have all these memories to cherish. I was there for the 1988 season when SMC went 10-0. Obviously, beating Santa Clara in the final game—with the final drive led by Tim Rosenkranz and the winning touchdown pass caught by Jon Braff—was a thrill beyond belief. There were 3,000 people at the after-game party in front of what is now Galileo Hall. It was a phenomenal day, and we had a great time, but it doesn't outdo all the other Saturdays we spent here.



### GIVING CHAMPS

Young alumni have distinguished themselves as donors, according to the Alumni Office, which reports that the class of 2013, who achieved a 53 percent giving rate as seniors, has maintained a 17.3 percent record of support for SMC. Meanwhile, the class of 2014, the largest graduating class so far (764), has given more than any senior class—with 62 percent participating in the Senior Gift Campaign (over \$7,200 raised). The gauntlet has been thrown!



## A Star to Watch

Remember the name Karen Trang.

The recently graduated Saint Mary's alumna is someone to watch. Trang is currently working in a UCSF lab at San Francisco General Hospital, studying how and where the HIV virus hides in the body. "We are trying to completely wipe out HIV," she said. As difficult a task as this is, we won't be surprised if she helps make it possible.

Trang was a star at Saint Mary's, winning, among other distinctions, the College's highest honor, the De La Salle Award, for the highest record in scholarship and general excellence, and the Linus Pauling Award, for outstanding work in biochemistry.

The native San Franciscan, a graduate of Lowell High School, worked with Professor Vidya Chandrasekaran while at SMC, studying neurons and learning how to plan experiments. Trang has been able to work closely with professors willing to chat with students after hours, a distinct Gael advantage, and has appreciated working directly with animals and the human genome map. As an undergraduate, she landed an internship researching chemotherapy drugs. And she learned to think like a scientist.

*The award-winning Karen Trang '14 aced her MCATs and attributes her success to her time at SMC. Now, she's busy applying to medical schools.*



A STAR: STEPHAN BABULJAK

## In Loving Memory

A ceremony to honor Sandie McKillip '80, daughter of Donald McKillip (SMC athletic director 1970–1989) was held on Feb. 27, 2014 on the Heritage High School campus in Brentwood. McKillip taught physical education, girls golf and dance at Heritage and Liberty high schools.



Reflections offered by the Brentwood Union School District superintendent, the Heritage High School principal, the Parent Club, the Leadership Committee and a host of students are a testimony to the many lives McKillip touched. A mosaic bench, handcrafted by students, was cleverly designed to feature pink golf clubs, shaping the Breast Cancer Ribbon. The bench was placed in a garden dedicated to McKillip's memory.

Luke Shockley, McKillip's son, spoke of the positive spirit and enthusiasm she generously shared. Family members, including McKillip's mother, Eunice McKillip, attended the ceremony. The loss of such a caring person will be felt by all those who had the privilege of knowing her. —Michael McKillip

# A Courageous, Generous Gael



Don't judge each day by  
the harvest you reap but by  
the seeds that you plant.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Last May, Saint Mary's College lost one of its most significant benefactors, Contra Costa County lost a brilliant doctor, and our community at large lost a wonderful human being. But despite this great loss, the life of Dr. Richard William Smith '62, known to his family and friends as Dick, continues on through his generous spirit and his legacy of love.

Smith came to Saint Mary's College in

1958, and quickly became known across campus for his scholarly accomplishments and for being a deeply thoughtful young man who encouraged those around him to strive for success. At Saint Mary's, Smith developed a passion for biology and began to plant the seeds for his career as a doctor, working closely with the school nurse at that time, Lizz McElligott. Seeing Smith's potential and knowing that he and his siblings had survived both of their parents, McElligott told Smith that she would pay for whatever medical school costs he could not pay for himself. He went on to graduate at the top of his class at Creighton University School of Medicine in Nebraska and then serve as a physician during the Vietnam War. After McElligott passed away (Smith had paid her back before then), he established the Lizz McElligott Endowed Scholarship, paying McElligott's generosity forward to help students in the same way that she had helped him.

And his generosity did not stop there. In addition to the McElligott Scholarship, Smith was also instrumental in setting up the Dr. Cory Endowed Scholarship for Biology at Saint Mary's and from his will established an endowed scholarship in honor of his close friends Joe Siler '62 and Dr. Kieran Fitzpatrick '62.

As his high school classmate and fellow Gael Bob Potenza '62 recalled: "The constellation of people close to Dick had become his lifetime extended family. He would delight in recounting each individual's achievements."

Smith had many interesting hobbies, including photography, geology, traveling and music. He was also an avid gardener, and was especially skilled at cultivating cacti and orchids. But as his close friend Fitzpatrick reminds us, "Dick's greatest love was for people." As Smith often said, "Gotta love 'em; they're our species."

—Casey McAlduff M.F.A. '12

## PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Richard C. Cupp  
Edgar L. Dow III  
Marie N. Guelld  
Eva Ghilotti, parent  
of Dante Ghilotti,  
Michael Ghilotti '84  
Peter Kosta, parent of  
Stephen Kosta '69  
Joe Kozlowski,  
parent of Kristine  
Kvochak '87  
Nada F. McFarland,  
parent of Robert  
McFarland '78  
Grace McGilvery  
Jackie McInerney,  
parent of Timothy  
McInerney  
Sean N. Moylan  
Caesar Nuti, parent  
of Larry Nuti, SMC  
General Counsel,  
Suzanne Peterson  
'87  
Helen P. Orth,  
parent of Daniel  
Orth '71  
Joseph A. Scafidi,  
parent of George  
Scafidi, Paul Scafidi  
Walt R. Reidelberger  
Sr., parent of  
Walt Reidelberger  
Anne D. Rothwell  
Michael G. Wilhelm

## ALUMNI

Brother William  
Beatrice FSC '52  
John E. Buick Jr.  
'49, parent of  
James Buick, John  
Buick '74  
Clair Calhoon ECR  
John P. Consiglieri  
'41, parent of John  
Consiglieri '71  
Betty Hallock  
Donna L. Hansen '88  
Frank C. Higham Jr.  
MBA '84  
John Hooper Sr. '47  
Albert V. Jones '44  
Joseph J. Marini '42  
Laurence  
McCaffrey '53  
James P.  
McDonnell '59  
Sheryl A. Pitts '94  
Andrew M. Regalia Jr.  
Ralph Ross '77  
Stephen N.  
Sestanovich '35  
Richard W. Smith '62  
Richard E. Stocks '71



# G

## GLIMPSES

### 1962

**1 Julia (Musser) Chapman ECR '04** sends a note from proud grandparents **William '62** and Mary Chapman: "Gaels, my granddaughter, Graylyn Marie Musser, dreaming."

### 1964

**Charles McCreary** has been married for 44 years and has three sons and five grandchildren. He earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Fordham University. He was a clinical professor at UCLA and is a psychologist at Greater Los Angeles VA Health Center.

### 1971

**2** Four classmates from the class of 1971, (L to R: **Mike Duda, Mike Marseille, Gene Domek** and **Peter Detwiler**) celebrated their collective 65th birthdays by chartering a 45-foot sailboat and cruising through Washington's San Juan Islands and British Columbia's Gulf Islands. Highlights included port visits in Ganges, British Columbia,

and Friday Harbor in Washington. The sailing buddies are pictured.

### 1972

**3 John Smead** finished one career and decided to embark on a second. After earning his master's in psychology from Pepperdine University in 2010, he went on to graduate from Alliant International University with a doctorate in clinical forensic psychology in May 2014. It was a special month—his youngest daughter, Kelly, also graduated the week before with a bachelor's degree in biology/psychology from Cal State University, Channel Islands. John will finish his internship at the Orange County Juvenile Drug Court. Last year, he interned at the Scripps Medical Group Division of Mental Health in San Diego, working primarily with senior citizens. John is pictured with his daughter Kelly Smead.

**4** After graduating from Saint Mary's with a degree in

English, **James A. Zarzana** earned a master's degree from Sacramento State. He completed his doctorate in English literature at the University of Notre Dame in 1985. For the past 25 years, James has been a professor of English at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU), in Marshall, Minn. During his tenure there, he has served twice as chair of the English Department and been a leader in several key initiatives, including the Global Studies foreign travel program, the creation of the Advising Center, the redesign of the Liberal Arts Core, and the transition from a quarter calendar to a semester calendar. This past spring, he received the Cathy Cowan Award, SMSU's highest honor, presented annually to a faculty or staff member who has made significant contributions to the campus and the surrounding community. James' first novel, *The Marsco Dissident*, is available from Amazon. It is set, in part,

in the futuristic cities of Sacramento and San Francisco. James is shown with his wife, Marianne, also an English professor, and their daughter, Elaine, as he receives the Cowan Award.

### 1975

**Dick Tres** just retired from Justin-Siena High School after teaching there for 34 years. Go to the JSHS website and find Avanti for more info and pics. He has lived in Napa with his wife, **Janice (Dunlap)**, since 1979. She has taught in, owned and run Sunrise Montessori of Napa Valley (toddler through sixth grade) since 1979. They have two children, Laura, 26, and David, 23.

### 1981

**5 J. Richard and Roberta (Hernandez) Tapia** celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary along with their four sons, **Ric, Robbie '12**, **Randy** and **Ryan**, while vacationing in Mexico City and Puerto Vallarta.

### 1986

**6 Alisa Bertain Phillips** reports that the Bertain Family celebrated the graduation of **Lucas Gerard Nemeth '14**—who earned a bachelor of arts in Integral Studies and is the second member of the family's fourth generation to graduate from Saint Mary's College—with a party in the George J. Bertain Redwood Grove on May 23, 2014. More than 50 members of the family, representing three generations of Bertain alumni, were there. Surrounded by the beautiful redwood trees donated by their father/grandfather/great-grandfather, the family proudly displayed Gael memorabilia and graduation photos of each Bertain Gael alum. Longtime friends and fellow alumni joined in the celebration to welcome Lucas and his classmates into the alumni fold. Family members shared stories of their days at Saint Mary's and passed down family history to the next

generation. Lucas' Aunt Alisa gave him the College ring that had belonged to his grandfather, **Richard V. Bertain Sr. '51**. Alisa's college friend **Sue Peiraccini '87** and **Ben Campbell '07**, buddy of **Jon Bertrain '07**, were also in attendance. The 2014 graduates realize that their friendships formed at Saint Mary's College can last a lifetime! Pictured are (back row) **Evan Skenderian '14**, **Mychal Muro, Hillary Peters '14, Cole Seekamp '14, Valerie Purcell '14, Lillian Humphrey '14, Austin Bruer '14, Lucas Nemeth '14**. Front row: **Joseph Bertain '81, Bill Bertain '69, Ben Campbell '07, Yvonne Daggett Murphy, Alisa Bertain Phillips, Sue Pieraccini '87, Jon Bertain '07, Len Bertain '66**.

### 1996

**7 Marc Dominguez ECR '04, ME '05** and his wife, Molleen Dupree-Dominguez, welcomed their first child, Sophia Rosario Dominguez, on



**Degree Key**  
**ECR** Education Credential  
**EdD** Doctor of Education  
**EE** Extended Education  
**EMBA** Executive MBA  
**HON** Honorary  
**MBA** Graduate Business  
**MC** Counseling  
**ME** Graduate Education  
**MFA** Fine Arts  
**ML** Leadership  
**MLS** Liberal Studies  
**MS** Science  
**N** Nursing  
**P** Paralegal Certificate



To see additional Glimpses photos, visit [stmarys-ca.edu/glimpses](http://stmarys-ca.edu/glimpses).

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## 1975

**Sam McHenry, Pat Agnew, David Santos-Cucalon and John Bomba '77** took a Swiss adventure in September 2013 to celebrate their 60th year on this fine earth. It was a luxury hiking trip starting in Zurich and ending in Zermatt. There were 75 miles of backcountry trails and 21,000 feet of elevation gain with weather that ranged from 80-

degree days and an inch-an-hour snow. Their hikes encompassed 11,750 feet maximum height at the Berghütte/ Mönchsjochehütte on the top of the Aletsch Glacier, to the 10,500-foot Hörnlihütte on the flank of the Matterhorn. They also left a remembrance near the Fruden Hutt over the Oeschinenensee from fellow alumnus **Stuart McIntosh**, who passed away three years ago.



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March 14, 2014. Marc is a school counselor at Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland.

## 1998

**8 Roxanne (Mangabay) Farkas ME**, who graduated from the School Counseling Program in 1998, is a career adviser, focusing on alumni and community engagement in the Career Services Center at the University of California, San Diego. Roxanne's career allows her to make an impact on students, staff and alumni in reaching their potential career goals.

## 2001

**Kelda Neely** traveled and worked abroad before quickly growing roots in Louisville, Colo. Her roots include two lovely boys and a growing business. She is a founder of Mountain Language Institute, an ESL school whose mission includes supporting lifelong language development while encouraging mutual respect and understanding through the cross-cultural experience.

**9 Christine (Briónes) Valladon ML '08** graduated with a communication major and a minor in sociol-

ogy. She returned for her master's in liberal arts with an emphasis in leadership in 2008. She was married to Scott Valladon in the Chapel on April 20, 2013. The bridal party included **Arnel Estoesta**, Doreen Hassan, **Roveeh Castillo '00**, **Ma-hogany Charlton**, **Niani Cobb-Philips '00**, **Sarah Goozee** and best man **Sean Valladon '05**.

## 2002

**10 Megan Bryan** is a firefighter living in Oakland. She spends a lot of her time cheering for both the men's and women's SMC basketball teams! Megan looks forward to bringing her new baby girl, Scout, who was born this past June, to many basketball games this year! Go Gaels!

## 2004

**11 Chris Swain ECR '07** is the new regional coordinator for Lasallian Vocation Ministry for the Christian Brothers Conference in Washington, D.C. Chris has served for 15 years in Lasallian institutions as either a volunteer or a teacher—at San Miguel School, Camden, N.J., De La Salle High School in Concord, and Lasallian Justin-Siena High

School in Napa, where he was director of community/student activities. He will be the first layperson to lead Lasallian vocation efforts full-time for the Lasallian Region of North America. He will work closely with Christian Brothers Conference and the Regional Vocation Formation Committee to lead an enhanced approach to vocations promotion. Through this collaboration, they will promote and recruit vocations to the Brothers as well as to other vocations to the Church, especially those related to the Lasallian charism, including educators and Lasallian Volunteers.

## 2005

**Tyler G. Burtis ML**, graduated with a master's in Leadership and later became an adjunct professor for the Master's in Leadership Program, and was promoted to special agent in charge by the California Department of Justice. Special Agent in Charge Burtis is responsible for the management of the Bureau of Gambling Control's Southern California Offices in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego counties.

**12 Ryan Lamberton ME '12** and Meghan Lamberton celebrated their son, Micah's, first birthday on June 6, 2014. Pictured are Meg, Ryan, Micah, Hannah and Caitlyn.

**Melissa McKeever** recently purchased a new home with her boyfriend, Chris, in San Jose, and they are loving decorating and putting their personal touches on the house. She also began a new position at Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton, in March as the associate director of institutional advancement, managing their annual fund program. She's looking forward to her 10-year SMC reunion in 2015.

## 2009

**13 Kristina Ahlwardt** graduated from the UCSF School of Dentistry in June 2014. She will complete a general practice residency at UCLA next year. Kristina was recently engaged to Michael McGinley in March 2014, and has plans to marry in July 2015.

**Robert and Christine Farris** announce that their son Robert Nicholas Farris is a candidate for the degree of Juris Doctor with a major in law

and library science. He graduated from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law on May 10, 2014.

**Jocelyn King EMBA '09** was in the first cohort Trans-Global Exec MBA program. She was appointed president of MOCCA (Marketing Operations Cross-Company Alliance). On April 1, she was named to 20 Women to Watch by the Sales Lead Management Association (SLMA) and was a finalist for the Marketing Team of the Year ACE Awards by United Business Media (UBM) EE Times.

**14 Lindsey Saravia Neville** is co-artistic director of San Ramon's first resident dance company, Jumpin' at the Sun! The company's aim is to bring modern contemporary dance to the Tri-Valley communities. Lindsey co-directs the company with her mother, Debbie Saravia. Keep up with the company's performances and events on Facebook. Lindsey is pictured with fellow company members, including **Hailey Yaffee '11** and **Harmony Negrin '13**.

**Lee Wilson EE**, a graduate of the LEAP program, has written a book, *Rebel on Pointe: a Memoir of Ballet and Broadway*, the story of how she danced her way out of the stifling suburbs of 1950s Delaware into the opera houses of Europe and onto the Broadway stage. Lee danced for Prince Rainier and Princess Grace in Monte Carlo, gun-toting revolutionaries in Algeria, American aristocrats at the Metropolitan Opera, and with a galaxy of stars on Broadway.

## 2012

**15 Melissa Campbell-McIntosh** recently accepted a position with Total Safety as asset manager at the company's Williston, N.D. location. She is also planning to marry her boyfriend of two years this summer in Alabama. **Alexandra Ballew** will be attending as bridesmaid. Melissa and her boyfriend are shown in front of their new house in North Dakota.

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## 2003

**Tim O'Rourke**

has had a busy year. He got married in August to Kate Berezich; adopted a 19-toed pug, "Fuji"; traveled to Chile, Belize and Guatemala; took a job as senior news editor at the *San Francisco Chronicle*; and was named to *Editor & Publisher's* 25 Under 35 list of media professionals to watch. At the wedding were **Omar Zazueta, Nick Harris '01, Jens and Raelene (Aragon) Weiden, David and Alison (Folcke) Allen, Alex Kohls '04, Andrew and Robyn Heiss, Zach Evanish '04 and Cristina (Galli) Meader '04.** Pictured are Tim and Kate popping open champagne after marrying at the Shakespeare Garden in San Francisco.



# V

## VIEWPOINT



**ZACHARY AMENDT**  
M.F.A. '14

*Amendt's collection of stories, STAY, was published this summer by Montag Press Collective.*

## We Are Married

I WAS AN EXPERT ON MY FIRST DAY OF MARRIAGE, and today, after 1,310 days of marriage, I am not only a novice, I am the superlative of novice.

Novice-est.

It is a fascinating vantage point, this humbled groom.

Marriage is a quiz show. I think I know the answer, but I don't. But I buzz in anyway.

Marriage is being willing to sing "American Pie" with her at karaoke, three times consecutively.

I am the person she said she'd never marry, cigars and tattoos, rebellious. But there are no ultimatums anymore, no taboos. It amuses her that I have started wearing ascots, even with flannel shirts. I think it is her patience, her tolerance, which is in no way martyrdom. I'm insufferable at times, but she suffers me. She listens to jazz because she likes jazz clubs and jazz is the essential part of the



*Amendt further defines marriage with his video, To the Moon. [stmarys-ca.edu/tothemoon](http://stmarys-ca.edu/tothemoon).*

equation, even though I know it all sounds like the same five songs to her.

She's more into sports than I am, and when she refers to the Oakland Athletics, she uses her "we" voice. (We have a hard month ahead, she'll say. We traded Fuld.)

You married the girl who was with you on the Fruitvale BART platform five New Year's Eves ago. You married the girl who thinks Fred Astaire's voice was better than his dancing.

She's a Montanan and I'm a Californian, and if you can believe it (I can't) we've never been miniature golfing together.

Marriage is buying her engagement ring at Tiffany's on Fifth Avenue, sweating karats. Marriage is not asking for her hand at Rockefeller Center because you've never been ice-skating before, and a proposal of marriage should not involve the risk of bodily harm.

We marry, and they ask us when we're having children. After three years, they stop asking.

She did not want a pony growing up, and yet she plays the ponies.

Marriage is not vacationing at Circus Circus anymore, not because she's a diva or because she grew up in a gated community, but because we can afford the Encore now, the Wynn.

Marriage is devising hilarious, crackpot, "get rich slow" schemes, such as NASCAR: the Opera. It is having a captain of dinner, and a co-captain, words we prefer to chef and sous chef and Gordon Ramsay. Our apartment is as old as Jack London, and she doesn't like it when I grill swordfish



indoors, but we have a smoker, and in addition to the salmon and gouda she loves, she allows me to smoke absurd things, such as toothpaste and herbal teas.

Marriage is not eating meat for a month because Morrissey (whom she does not like) says it's murder. Marriage is disliking the same things, such as fireworks and loud noises and insincerity.

Marriage is still a sacrament to me, only it's more secular now, more textured. I'm on lockdown. I'm smitten. I swoon. I swore not to be that guy, and now I am that guy. I don't mind it; in fact I have manned up to the degree that I feel like I no longer belong to my past, that I was never a bachelor, that I was never not with her.

Marriage. You can malign it. You can quit on it. But right now—and I hope this is true on my 10,458th day at it—marriage is the kind of thing I want to blow onto my knuckles and brush against my lapel.



## Tevin will be calling soon.

*We hope you'll take his call. You—and our students—will be glad you did.*

"It's great to talk and connect with Saint Mary's alumni, parents and friends. I really enjoy fundraising for Saint Mary's, encouraging Gaels everywhere to pay it forward for students."

—Tevin Goodwin '15

Tevin has raised a total of \$9,500 for Saint Mary's College students.

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## Summer Focus

Faculty and students from the School of Science did research this summer on a wide variety of topics. Here, Biology Professor Sonya Schuh-Huerta (right) with her student, Ashley Arancio '16, are performing an in vitro fertilization, testing the effects of an environmental toxicant on the development of a frog embryo.